116, 164, 304, 757

"According to Calder, Robinson says: '... The savage of Tasmania was more than ordinarily liable to attacks (of epidemic disease), which ... he knew no remedy for, and sought only to relieve his pain by ... the excessive laceration of his body with flint, or glass if he could get it, which, by producing weakness, made death only the more speedy and certain. I quite believe that the original cause of their decay lay in their own imprudence generating fatal catarrhal complaints, from which ... by proper remedial measures, resorted to early, (they) would have recovered. These imprudences were ... practised only by a few tribes inhabiting the settled districts, but the consequences, which are epidemic, infected all before long' (Journ. p. 15). Robinson also relates of a sick woman who was afflicted, according [76] to her husband, with sick head, breast, belly. On each of these parts incisions had been made with a piece of glass bottle. The forehead was much lacerated, the blood streaming down her face. Her whole frame was wasted; she had a ghastly appearance' (Calder, Journ. p. 16)."

1: Roth--77 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 758

"When any of these people fall sick, in their native state, so as to be unable to accompany the others in their daily removals, they are furnished with a supply of such food as the party happens to have and a bundle of the leaves of Mesembryanthemum equilaterale-- a plant know in the colony by the name of Pig-faces, --which the natives use as purgative, and they are left to perish, unless they recover in time to follow the others' (Backhouse, p. 84). 'When a woman was taken in labour, the tribe did not wait for her, but she was left behind with another woman, and afterwards followed as she best could' (Davies, p. 412)."

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"The office of watching over the sick and dying was left to the women (Dove, p. 252). According to Dove (p. 252): 'No one presumed to be more qualified than another to suggest or administer a cure,' but West says (II. p. 90), 'There were some who practised more than others, and therefore called docters by the English.'"